

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2015

Call to Order

DUI Task Force president Barbara Bessette called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, noting that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Roll Call

DUI Task Force Members

Cascade County Attorney designee: Ashley Wilkinson – **Excused Absence**
Cascade County Sheriff designee: Deputy Travis Grove (**Secretary**) – **Present**
City of Great Falls Chief of Police designee: Captain Jeff Newton – **Excused Absence**
Great Falls City Attorney designee: Cassidy Blomgren – **Excused Absence**
State of Montana Highway Patrol District II Chief designee: Trooper David Baggs – **Present**
Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee: Savannah Hilton – **Absent**
State of MT Adult Probation & Parole Regional Admin designee: Nichole Anderson – **Present**
Montana Tavern Association Home Safe Program designee: Vince Kyle – **Present**
Gateway Recovery Center designee: Barbara Bessette (**President**) - **Present**
Benefis Health Systems, Inc. Chemical Dependency Unit designee: J.T. Lute (**V.P.**) – **Excused Absence**
Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. designee: Lisa Meyers – **Present**
Cascade County Commissioner: Jim Larson - **Present**
Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth – **Present**
Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: SSgt Heffington – **Present**
Citizen Members: Jim Whitaker (Treasurer) - **Present**; Corin Fisch - **Present**; Mark Hewitt - **Present**
Task Force Coordinator: Jerry Kelley – **Excused Absence**

Members of the Public in Attendance

John Hayes, Cascade County Tavern Association
Seth Garrett, Prevention Intern, Gateway Recovery Center

2. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2015

DUI Task Force members reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. **Jim Whitaker motioned to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2015 meeting as presented. Lisa Meyers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Information Committee

Member Biographies/Officer Pictures: Biographies still needed are: Cassidy Blomgren, Savannah Hilton, SSgt Heffington, and Danielle Funseth. Lisa Meyers asked that anyone with new contact information to contact her or Jerry Kelley. It was agreed only to put e-mails and not phone numbers on the website for member contact information.

STARadio PSA's: Barbara Bessette voiced the PSA's and they are being broadcast on STARadio. Central is still playing them even though our contract expired. Ms. Bessette advised that she will be recording some holiday related messages soon. She is scheduled to talk about ways to get home safe on New Year's Eve on the December 30th morning radio program.

4. Financial/Budget Performance Report and Requests for Payment/Purchases

DUI Task Force Members reviewed the financial statements. The Task Force received reinstatement fees totaling \$5,100.00. \$80.35 was spent to purchase 300 DVD's and 100 sleeves for the Cascade County Sheriff's Office.

Billboards Production Fee Increase: Barbara Bessette advised that the cost of the billboards will be \$2,425.00 as opposed to \$2,358.00 as originally indicated. **Corin Fisch motioned and Jim Whitaker seconded to pay the additional \$67.00 production fee increase. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

5. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

CCSO Observation Room Camera Update: Travis reported that the cameras have been installed. They are in the process of figuring out how to create instructions so the officers will know how to burn DVD's from the recording. They did use footage from the new cameras for a DUI case and it worked well. They hope to be fully utilizing the new equipment by the end of December. Officer Grove will make a video from the old system and one from the new system to show the difference.

Officer Nominations: Corin Fisch announced that all existing officers volunteered to serve another term except Travis Grove who is not eligible to renew as secretary due to serving for two years already. Lisa Meyers volunteered to fill the secretary position.

MAFB Wing Holiday Celebration: The event will be December 18th from 6-9 p.m. at the Grizzly Bend. The Task Force previously approved a donation of \$400.00 for this event. Jim Whitaker, Jerry Kelley, and Barbara Bessette attended last year and commented positively. Jim Whitaker offered to go again this year. Mark Hewitt passed around the Task Force's new ad published in the *Heads Up* magazine.

Home Safe Issues: Task Force members discussed at length ways to improve the Home Safe program by encouraging cab drivers when it comes to picking up people from drinking establishments. John Hayes advised that the Home Safe program provides an average of 130 rides per month. Ideas suggested included: provide money for tips to the drivers, but at \$5.00 per person it would cost \$650.00 per month; put the driver's name in a bucket for a drawing for a gift certificate each time he or she picks up an individual; incentivize the drivers by tracking their rides and awarding the one with the most for the month \$50.00, and then at the annual Tavern Association dinner give an award for the best cab driver of the year to whoever gave the most rides.

Discussion revolved around the fact that the driver franchise program, Uber, has been approved by the Public Service Commission. John Hayes advised that the person needing the ride would need an account, but Home Safe could set up an account for people to use. Everyone agreed that Uber will be a good thing.

Barbara Bessette recommended, and Task Force members agreed, to award \$50.00 per month to the driver that gives the most rides for the Home Safe program. John Hayes commented that for it to be successful everyone needs to be a winner to some degree so the others don't get discouraged. Mark Hewitt suggested accumulating points based on rides for a grand prize at the end of the year. President Bessette concluded that the recommendation will be voted on at the next meeting and for anyone with any other ideas to bring them.

Mark Hewitt announced that Lythia, who bought out Bennet, has agreed to provide the same arrangement that Bennett did for the Home Safe program for New Year's Eve. On New Year's Eve, they will provide vehicles for the Home Safe Program to use to provide rides to drinking establishment customers.

December Meeting: President Bessette asked if Task Force members wanted to hold a meeting in December. **Vince Kyle motioned to forego the December meeting. David Baggs seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

6. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

The Home Safe program provided 114 rides and took a total of 138 people home last month. There were 35 DUI arrests in October compared to 30 a year ago. The average blood alcohol content was .163 in October compared to .171 a year ago. There were 39 MIP-A citations in October which decreased considerably from the 70 in July. The highest DUI convictions by age for the 2015-16 fiscal year is tied between 21-25 year olds, 36-40 year olds, and 50 plus year olds. Task Force members discussed that the majority of 24/7 participants are 2nd or subsequent DUI offenders and the fact that DUI's are expensive, but it still doesn't deter people. Nichole Anderson stated that there is no room at the jail, so they are trying to come up with alternative sanctions. In addition, the holidays show an increase in problems. Jim Whitaker stated that the increase in the speed limit to 80 is going to cause a lot of problems as well.

7. MAFB Save Stats

Malmstrom had 28 saves in October. SSgt Heffington commented that they have had an upswing in DUI's - 2 in October and another 2 thus far in November. Mark Hewitt explained the DUI's are coming out of one particular squadron on base. That squadron and all others on base need to change their mindset regarding driving impaired and commented that it is all squadron commanders' priority to change that mindset. SSgt Heffington advised that Airmen Against Drunk Driving may be switching to elected positions, but he will make it known that the Task Force wants continuity in having the same person all the time. The Chief may incorporate some of the officers from the squadrons that are getting DUI's. SrA Gregory is in the process of ordering the oil change stickers with the AADD phone number. SSgt Heffington reported that Airmen Against Drunk Driving had a booth at the fair where they gave away Subway gift cards and Red Box coupons from the Cascade County DUI Task Force.

8. Recognizing Sellers and 911 Callers with Kudo Cards

No Kudo cards were awarded this past month.

9. Round Robin of all Task Force Members

Nichole Anderson reported on the overtime probation and parole had that the Task Force voted to compensate. Officers performed 16 compliance checks and found 1 individual with drugs. They had 4.5 hours of overtime. They will have used up the funds allocated after 4 more hours.

Jim Larson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to drive safely from the Cascade County Commission.

Danielle Funseth announced that the passive breath testers the Task Force purchased for CMR and Great Falls High have been big hit. With their use, 9 students were found to be under the influence at prom. Because of their success, Paris Gibson, who did not want one previously, now does, so a request will be brought before the Task Force. Schools weren't using the old ones because of their size.

10. Public Comment

None

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:31 p.m. Lisa Meyers motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jim Whitaker seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release.

Citizen Member Expiration Dates: Corin Fisch – June 30, 2016
Mark Hewitt – June 30, 2017
Jim Whitaker – June 30, 2017

Minutes approved by: _____ **Date:** _____
Barbara Bessette, President